

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A video processing method for preparing an anti-aliased foreground image for display over an image background, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (i) preparing said image background for display;
- (ii) generating original foreground image signals by manipulation of a contiguous group of graphics primitives;
- (iii) applying anti-aliasing filtering to edges of each primitive of said group of primitives to generate primitive-processed image signals;
- (iv) first processing said primitive-processed image signals to superpose said primitive-processed image over said image background; and
- (v) second processing said original foreground image signals to superpose said original foreground image over said primitive-processed image.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein a result of said second processing step (v) is a combined image, said method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (vi) low-pass filtering said combined image to generate a low-pass filtered foreground image;
- (vii) detecting peripheral edge regions of said group of graphics primitives; and
- (viii) superposing only said peripheral edge regions of said low-pass filtered image over said combined image.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein said low-pass filtering ~~step~~ further comprises: [[a]] horizontal low-pass filtering; ~~step~~ and [[a]] vertical low-pass filtering ~~step~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein said horizontal low-pass filtering ~~step~~ further comprises:
interpolating a pixel-shifted version of said original foreground image, said pixel-shifted image being shifted horizontally by a non-integral number of pixels; and
shifting said pixel-shifted image back by said non-integral number of pixels.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 4, wherein ~~in which~~ said non-integral number of pixels is half a pixel.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 5, wherein ~~in which~~ said vertical low-pass filtering ~~step~~ comprises:
interpolating a vertically-expanded image from said original foreground image;
and
interpolating a non-vertically expanded image from said vertically expanded image.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein ~~in which~~ said vertically expanded image is expanded by a vertical factor of 2.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein in which each pixel of said original foreground image has an associated transparency coefficient, and wherein in which steps (vi) and (viii) said low-pass filtering and said superposing further comprise:

~~setting said transparency coefficient to a value indicative of a high degree of transparency for pixels near a peripheral edge of the group of graphics primitives; and~~

writing said low-pass filtered image over said original foreground image so that said original foreground image is modified by pixels of said low-pass filtered image in dependence on said transparency coefficient associated with each display position of said original foreground image, said transparency coefficient for pixels near a peripheral edge of the group of graphics primitives in said original foreground image being set so that the pixels near the peripheral edge of the group of graphics primitives are replaced by corresponding pixels of said low-pass filtered image.

Claim 9-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): Video processing apparatus for preparing an anti-aliased foreground image for display over an image background, said apparatus comprising:

- (i) logic means to prepare said image background for display;
- (ii) a generator to generate original foreground image signals by manipulation of a contiguous group of graphics primitives;
- (iii) an anti-alias filter to apply anti-aliasing filtering to edges of each primitive of said group of primitives to generate primitive-processed image signals;

(iv) first logic means to process said primitive-processed image signals to superpose said primitive-processed image over said image background; and

(v) second logic means to process said original foreground image signals to superpose said original foreground image over said primitive-processed image.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium including a processing program, stored thereon, for controlling a video processing apparatus to perform a process of preparing an anti-aliased foreground image for display over an image background in order to provide anti-aliasing in a video effects system, the process comprising:

(i) preparing said image background for display;

(ii) generating original foreground image signals by manipulation of a contiguous group of graphics primitives;

(iii) applying anti-aliasing filtering to edges of each primitive of said group of primitives to generate primitive-processed image signals;

(iv) first processing said primitive-processed image signals to superpose said primitive-processed image over said image background; and

(v) second processing said original foreground image signals to superpose said original foreground image over said primitive-processed image.